

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Claims:**

1. (Amended) A longitudinal or perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising, in this order:
- a substrate comprising Li;
  - a sealing layer comprising NiNb; and
  - a magnetic layer,
- wherein the sealing layer substantially prevents migration of Li from the substrate.
4. (Amended) The magnetic recording medium according to claim [1] 3, wherein said NiNb is amorphous NiNb.
13. (Amended) The method according to claim [10] 12, wherein said NiNb comprises amorphous NiNb.
20. (Amended) A longitudinal or perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising, in this order:
- a substrate comprising Li;
  - a sealing means for substantially preventing migration of Li from the substrate; and
  - a magnetic layer.